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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for updating a plurality of dictionaries or glossaries, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
- executing an application on a client, wherein the application accesses a local copy of a dictionary or
10 glossary;
- updating a master dictionary or glossary at a server; and
- serving the update to the master dictionary or glossary to the application on the client to update the
15 local copy of the dictionary or glossary, wherein a dictionary comprises spellings and definitions of terms or words, and wherein a glossary comprises explanatory words or explanatory phrases for a list of terms or words found in an associated document or datastream.
- 20
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- defining a new term at the client; and
- responsive to a determination that the new term is missing from the local copy of the dictionary or glossary
25 at the client, sending a message comprising the new term to the server to update the master dictionary or glossary.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the new term is an
30 acronym.

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4. The method of claim 1 wherein a dictionary or a glossary is a member of a hierarchical set of dictionaries or glossaries associated with organizational units.
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5. A method for processing a datastream, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
- detecting an acronym in a datastream; and
 - automatically inserting an expansion of the acronym
- 10 in the datastream in close proximity to the acronym, wherein the expansion of the acronym is selected from a hierarchical set of glossaries.
6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:
- 15 updating a master dictionary or glossary at a server; and
- serving the update to the master dictionary or glossary to a client to update a local copy of the dictionary or glossary, wherein the local copy of the
- 20 dictionary or glossary is a member of a hierarchical set of dictionaries or glossaries.
7. A method for processing a datastream within a data processing system, the method comprising the
- 25 computer-implemented steps of:
- automatically scanning a datastream;
 - automatically detecting, in the datastream, a word that does not match an indexed term or word in a glossary;
- 30 identifying the unmatched word as an acronym; and
- in response to identifying the acronym, inserting

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data associated with the acronym into the datastream in close proximity to the acronym, wherein the data associated with the acronym is selected from a hierarchical set of glossaries.

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8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

an organizational database comprising information for organizational units within the data processing system, wherein each glossary in the hierarchical set of glossaries is associated with an organizational unit.

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9. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of selecting

data associated with the acronym further comprises

retrieving data from each source glossary, wherein a

source glossary is a glossary within the hierarchical set of glossaries that contains an entry for the acronym.

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10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

presenting to the user the data retrieved from each

source glossary;

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selecting a source glossary; and

identifying the retrieved data from the selected

source glossary as the inserted data in the datastream.

25 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

an organizational database comprising information

for organizational units within the data processing

system, wherein each glossary in the hierarchical set of

glossaries is associated with an organizational unit;

storing a user preference list for an order of

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presentation for information from a set of glossaries,

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wherein entries in the user preference list are associated with the organizational units; and
presenting a list of source glossaries to a user according to an order stored in the user preference list.

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12. The method of claim 7 further comprising:
updating a master glossary at a server; and
serving the update to the master glossary to a client to update a local copy of the glossary, wherein
10 the local copy of the glossary is a member of the hierarchical set of glossaries.

13. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of selecting data associated with the acronym further comprises
15 retrieving data from a default glossary, wherein the default glossary is a glossary previously selected from the hierarchical set of glossaries.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the default glossary
20 is selected based on a predetermined association selected from the group consisting of: an association between a glossary and a user, an association between a glossary and a document or datastream, an association between a glossary and an organizational unit, or an association
25 between a user and an organizational unit.

15. A method for updating a plurality of dictionaries or glossaries stored within a data processing system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
30 automatically scanning a datastream;
automatically detecting, in the datastream, a

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word that does not match an indexed term or word in a dictionary or a glossary; and

responsive to an indication that the unmatched word is a properly spelled new term, determining to update a
5 dictionary or glossary with the new term, wherein the dictionary or glossary is a member of a hierarchically ordered set of dictionaries and/or glossaries.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising:
10 presenting a list of a set of dictionaries and/or glossaries to a user; and
selecting, from the presented list, a dictionary or glossary to be updated with the new term; and
updating the selected dictionary or glossary.

15 17. The method of claim 15 further comprising:
an organizational database comprising information for organizational units within the data processing system, wherein each glossary in the hierarchical set of
20 glossaries is associated with an organizational unit; and
determining a list of dictionaries and/or glossaries to be updated with the new term with reference to the organizational database.

25 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of determining the list of dictionaries and/or glossaries further comprises:
responsive to a determination of a user that indicated that the unmatched word is a properly spelled
30 new term, determining the organizational unit containing the user; and

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selecting a set of dictionaries and/or glossaries based on the organizational unit for the user.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the step of selecting
5 a set of dictionaries and/or glossaries based on the organizational unit for the user further comprises:

determining, according to previously stored
selectable options, whether local copies of dictionaries
and/or glossaries stored on computers used by persons
10 within the organizational unit are to be updated upon an indication of a new term by the user; and

determining, according to previously stored
selectable options, whether a master copy of a dictionary
and/or glossary stored on a server is to be updated upon
15 an indication of a new term by the user.

20. The method of claim 17 further comprising:

updating each dictionary and/or glossary on the list
of dictionaries and/or glossaries to be updated with the
20 new term.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the step of updating
each dictionary and/or glossary on the list of
dictionaries and/or glossaries further comprises:

25 receiving, at a server in the data processing
system, an update message comprising the new term; and

sending, from the server, an update message
comprising the new term to each client computer storing a
copy of each dictionary and/or glossary.

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22. The method of claim 21 further comprising:

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updating a master copy of each dictionary and/or glossary on the server.

23. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of
5 determining a list of dictionaries and/or glossaries to be updated with the new term with reference to the organizational database is performed on a server within the data processing system.
- 10 24. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of determining a list of dictionaries and/or glossaries to be updated with the new term with reference to the organizational database is performed on a client computer within the data processing system.
- 15 25. The method of claim 15 wherein the dictionary or glossary determined to be updated is a default dictionary or glossary previously selected from the hierarchically ordered set of dictionaries and/or glossaries.
- 20 26. A data processing system for updating a plurality of dictionaries or glossaries, the data processing system comprising:
- executing means for executing an application on a
25 client, wherein the application accesses a local copy of a dictionary or glossary;
- updating means for updating a master dictionary or glossary at a server; and
- server means for serving the update to the master
30 dictionary or glossary to the application on the client .
to update the local copy of the dictionary or glossary,

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wherein a dictionary comprises spellings and definitions of terms or words, and wherein a glossary comprises explanatory words or explanatory phrases for a list of terms or words found in an associated document or
 5 datastream.

27. The data processing system of claim 26 further comprising:

defining means for defining a new term at the
 10 client; and

sending means for sending, in response to a determination that the new term is missing from the local copy of the dictionary or glossary at the client, a message comprising the new term to the server to update
 15 the master dictionary or glossary.

28. The data processing system of claim 27 wherein the new term is an acronym.

20 29. The data processing system of claim 26 wherein a dictionary or a glossary is a member of a hierarchical set of dictionaries or glossaries associated with organizational units.

25 30. A data processing system for processing a datastream, the data processing system comprising:

detecting means for detecting an acronym in a datastream; and

inserting means for automatically inserting an
 30 expansion of the acronym in the datastream in close proximity to the acronym, wherein the expansion of the

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acronym is selected from a hierarchical set of glossaries.

31. The data processing system of claim 30 further
5 comprising:
 updating means for updating a master dictionary or
 glossary at a server; and
 server means for serving the update to the master
dictionary or glossary to a client to update a local copy
10 of the dictionary or glossary, wherein the local copy of
the dictionary or glossary is a member of a hierarchiacal
set of dictionaries or glossaries.

32. A data processing system for processing a datastream
15 in a data processing system, the data processing system
comprising:

 scanning means for automatically scanning a
datastream;
 detecting means for automatically detecting, in the
20 datastream, a word that does not match an indexed term or
word in a glossary;

 first identifying means for identifying the
unmatched word as an acronym; and

 inserting means for inserting, in response to
25 identifying the acronym, data associated with the acronym
into the datastream in close proximity to the acronym,
wherein the data associated with the acronym is selected
from a hierarchical set of glossaries.

30 33. The data processing system of claim 32 further
comprising:

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an organizational database comprising information for organizational units within the data processing system, wherein each glossary in the hierarchical set of glossaries is associated with an organizational unit.

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34. The data processing system of claim 32 wherein selecting data associated with the acronym further comprises retrieving means for retrieving data from each source glossary, wherein a source glossary is a glossary within the hierarchical set of glossaries that contains an entry for the acronym.

35. The data processing system of claim 34 further comprising:
15 presenting means for presenting to the user the data retrieved from each source glossary;
selecting means for selecting a source glossary; and
second identifying means for identifying the
retrieved data from the selected source glossary as the
20 inserted data in the datastream.

36. The data processing system of claim 35 further comprising:
an organizational database comprising information
25 for organizational units within the data processing system, wherein each glossary in the hierarchical set of glossaries is associated with an organizational unit;
storing means for storing a user preference list for an order of presentation for information from a set of
30 glossaries, wherein entries in the user preference list are associated with the organizational units; and

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presenting means for presenting a list of source glossaries to a user according to an order stored in the user preference list.

5 37. The data processing system of claim 32 further comprising:

updating means for updating a master glossary at a server; and

10 server means for serving the update to the master glossary to a client to update a local copy of the glossary, wherein the local copy of the glossary is a member of the hierarchical set of glossaries.

15 38. The data processing system of claim 32 wherein the selected data associated with the acronym further comprises data retrieved from a default glossary, wherein the default glossary is a glossary previously selected from the hierarchical set of glossaries.

20 39. The data processing system of claim 38 wherein the default glossary is selected based on a predetermined association selected from the group consisting of: an association between a glossary and a user, an association between a glossary and a document or datastream, an
25 association between a glossary and an organizational unit, or an association between a user and an organizational unit.

30 40. A data processing system for updating a plurality of dictionaries or glossaries, the data processing system comprising:

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scanning means for automatically scanning a
datastream;

detecting means for automatically detecting, in the
datastream, a word that does not match an indexed term or
5 word in a dictionary or a glossary;

first determining means for determining, in response
to an indication that the unmatched word is a properly
spelled new term, to update a dictionary or glossary with
the new term, wherein the dictionary or glossary is a
10 member of a hierarchically ordered set of dictionaries
and/or glossaries.

41. The data processing system of claim 40 further
comprising:

15 presenting means for presenting a list of a set of
dictionaries and/or glossaries to a user; and

selecting means for selecting, from the presented
list, a dictionary or glossary to be updated with the new
term; and

20 updating means for updating the selected dictionary
or glossary.

42. The data processing system of claim 40 further
comprising:

25 an organizational database comprising information
for organizational units within the data processing
system, wherein each glossary in the hierarchical set of
glossaries is associated with an organizational unit; and

second determining means for determining a list of
30 dictionaries and/or glossaries to be updated with the new
term with reference to the organizational database.

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43. The data processing system of claim 42 wherein the second determining means for determining the list of dictionaries and/or glossaries further comprises:

5 third determining means for determining the organizational unit containing the user, in response to a determination of a user that indicated that the unmatched word is a properly spelled new term; and

 selecting means for selecting a set of dictionaries
10 and/or glossaries based on the organizational unit for the user.

44. The data processing system of claim 43 wherein the selecting means for selecting a set of dictionaries
15 and/or glossaries based on the organizational unit for the user further comprises:

 fourth determining means for determining, according to previously stored selectable options, whether local
 copies of dictionaries and/or glossaries stored on
20 computers used by persons within the organizational unit are to be updated upon an indication of a new term by the user; and

 fifth determining means for determining, according to the previously stored selectable options, whether a
25 master copy of a dictionary and/or glossary stored on a server is to be updated upon an indication of a new term by the user.

45. The data processing system of claim 42 further
30 comprising:

 updating means for updating each dictionary and/or

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glossary on the list of dictionaries and/or glossaries to be updated with the new term.

46. The data processing system of claim 45 wherein the
5 updating means for updating each dictionary and/or
glossary on the list of dictionaries and/or glossaries
further comprises:

receiving means for receiving, at a server in the
data processing system, an update message comprising the
10 new term; and

sending means for sending, from the server, an
update message comprising the new term to each client
computer storing a copy of each dictionary and/or
glossary.

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47. The data processing system of claim 46 further
comprising:

updating means for updating a master copy of each
dictionary and/or glossary on the server.

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48. The data processing system of claim 42 wherein the
second determining means for determining a list of
dictionaries and/or glossaries to be updated with the new
term with reference to the organizational database is
25 performed on a server within the data processing system.

49. The data processing system of claim 42 wherein the
third determining means for determining a list of
dictionaries and/or glossaries to be updated with the new
30 term with reference to the organizational database is
performed on a client computer within the data processing

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system.

50. The data processing system of claim 40 wherein the dictionary or glossary determined to be updated is a
5 default dictionary or glossary previously selected from the hierarchically ordered set of dictionaries and/or glossaries.

51. A computer program product in a computer-readable
10 medium for use in a data processing system for updating a plurality of dictionaries or glossaries, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for executing an application on a client, wherein the application accesses a local copy of
15 a dictionary or glossary;

second instructions for updating a master dictionary or glossary at a server; and

third instructions for serving the update to the master dictionary or glossary to the application on the
20 client to update the local copy of the dictionary or glossary, wherein a dictionary comprises spellings and definitions of terms or words, and wherein a glossary comprises explanatory words or explanatory phrases for a list of terms or words found in an associated document or
25 datastream.

52. The computer program product of claim 51 wherein a dictionary or a glossary is a member of a hierarchical set of dictionaries or glossaries associated with
30 organizational units.

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53. A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for use in a data processing system for processing a datastream, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for detecting an acronym in the
5 datastream; and

second instructions for automatically inserting an expansion of the acronym in the datastream in close proximity to the acronym, wherein the expansion of the acronym is selected from a hierarchical set of
10 glossaries.

54. A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for use in a data processing system for processing a datastream within the data processing system, the
15 computer program product comprising:

first instructions for automatically scanning the datastream;

second instructions for automatically detecting, in the datastream, a word that does not match an indexed
20 term or word in a glossary;

third instructions for identifying the unmatched word as an acronym; and

fourth instructions for inserting, in response to identifying the acronym, data associated with the acronym
25 into the datastream in close proximity to the acronym, wherein the data associated with the acronym is selected from a hierarchical set of glossaries.

55. A computer program product in a computer-readable
30 medium for use in a data processing system for updating a plurality of dictionaries or glossaries stored within the

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data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for automatically scanning a datastream;

5 second instructions for automatically detecting, in the datastream, a word that does not match an indexed term or word in a dictionary or a glossary; and

third instructions for determining, responsive to an indication that the unmatched word is a properly spelled
10 new term, to update a dictionary or glossary with the new term, wherein the dictionary or glossary is a member of a hierarchically ordered set of dictionaries and/or glossaries.

15 56. The computer program product of claim 55 further comprising:

instructions for presenting a list of a set of dictionaries and/or glossaries to a user;

instructions for selecting, from the presented list,
20 a dictionary or glossary to be updated with the new term; and

instructions for updating the selected dictionary or glossary.

25 57. The computer program product of claim 55 further comprising:

an organizational database comprising information for organizational units within the data processing system, wherein each glossary in the hierarchical set of
30 glossaries is associated with an organizational unit; and

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instructions for determining a list of dictionaries and/or glossaries to be updated with the new term with reference to the organizational database.

- 5 58. The computer program product of claim 57 wherein the instructions for determining the list of dictionaries and/or glossaries further comprise:

instructions for determining, responsive to a determination of a user that indicated that the unmatched
10 word is a properly spelled new term, the organizational unit containing the user; and

instructions for selecting a set of dictionaries and/or glossaries based on the organizational unit for the user.

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59. The computer program product of claim 58 wherein the instructions for selecting a set of dictionaries and/or glossaries based on the organizational unit for the user further comprise:

20 instructions for determining, according to previously stored selectable options, whether local copies of dictionaries and/or glossaries stored on computers used by persons within the organizational unit are to be updated upon an indication of a new term by the
25 user; and

instructions for determining, according to previously stored selectable options, whether a master copy of a dictionary and/or glossary stored on a server are to be updated upon an indication of a new term by the
30 user.

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60. The computer program product of claim 57 further comprising:

instructions for updating each dictionary and/or glossary on the list of dictionaries and/or glossaries to
5 be updated with the new term.

61. The computer program product of claim 60 wherein the instructions for updating each dictionary and/or glossary on the list of dictionaries and/or glossaries further
10 comprise:

instructions for receiving, at a server in the data processing system, an update message comprising the new term; and

instructions for sending, from the server, an update
15 message comprising the new term to each client computer storing a copy of each dictionary and/or glossary.

62. The computer program product of claim 61 further comprising:

20 instructions for updating a master copy of each dictionary and/or glossary on the server.

63. The computer program product of claim 57 wherein the instructions for determining a list of dictionaries
25 and/or glossaries to be updated with the new term with reference to the organizational database are performed on a server within the data processing system.

64. The computer program product of claim 57 wherein the
30 instructions for determining a list of dictionaries and/or glossaries to be updated with the new term with

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reference to the organizational database are performed on a client computer within the data processing system.

65. The computer program product of claim 55 wherein the
5 dictionary or glossary determined to be updated is a
default dictionary or glossary previously selected from
the hierarchically ordered set of dictionaries and/or
glossaries.